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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

June 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## 2005 Gypsy Moth Spraying Wrapping Up

*DNR treated about 2,700 acres in five counties with Btk in 2005 as part of the suppression program. By the end of summer, the Dept of Ag will have treated over 300,000 acres in 19 counties as part of its "Slow the Spread" program.*

Aerial spraying to control the spread and potentially defoliating effects of the gypsy moth are underway - or have wrapped up, depending on where you live - across much of Wisconsin.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which coordinates a suppression program, finished its work on the morning of May 25. The suppression program is conducted at the request of local communities and where the gypsy moth has reached a high level of infestation. The suppression spray reduces the population of the pest to low levels within the area treated. The DNR helps coordinate and supports the local efforts but does not initiate spraying projects. Approximately 2,700 acres were treated with the bacterial pesticide Btk in Brown, Door, Marinette, Milwaukee and Washington counties in 2005.

The Department of Agriculture (DATCP) is still conducting its Slow the Spread program. By the end of summer they'll treat more than 300,000 acres across 19 central and western Wisconsin using a variety of products designed to kill or confuse the gypsy moth in either its caterpillar or moth life stage. Btk and the viral pesticide Gypchek are used to kill the caterpillars; pheromone flakes are used as a mating disruptor, making it difficult for the short-lived moths to mate in late summer. Treatment areas for DATCP are determined based on information that's gathered after analyzing thousands of traps set up across the western half of the state.

Widespread defoliation does not appear to be a concern in Wisconsin this year. Huge populations of gypsy moth in some eastern Wisconsin communities last year have collapsed and it will take several years before the moth returns to those outbreak levels. But the gypsy moth does continue - not unexpectedly - to set up residence in new counties. Just this year, Sauk and Juneau counties were added to the growing list of quarantine counties, bringing the total to 41.

"Residents in a handful of central counties could start noticing gypsy moth caterpillars this summer," said [Andrea Diss](#), DNR Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator. "Populations are beginning to rise in Adams, Dane, Juneau and Sauk counties. But it's not likely that anyone will see much, if any, defoliation."

For more information about gypsy moth and control measures in Wisconsin, visit <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> or call 1-800-642-MOTH (6684). To report sightings of large numbers of gypsy moth caterpillars or egg masses, please call the toll-free number.

## Legacy Program Calls for Proposals

*The Forest Legacy Program promotes the use of conservation easements to help maintain the integrity and traditional uses of private forestlands.*

The Forest Legacy Program is designed to identify and protect environmentally important private forestlands threatened by conversion to nonforest uses and fragmentation. States receive federal grant money that can be used for the acquisition of conservation easements that focus on the sustainable use of forest resources. The process begins with a call for projects, which are first ranked locally by the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and then nationally. The special emphasis is on large tracts of land or corridors that connect private and public land. If you would like to apply for a project, please fill out an [application](#) and return it to [Nicole Potvin](#) no later than July 15, 2005. To view a map of the Forest Legacy areas in Wisconsin or for more information on the program visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/legacy/> or contact Nicole Potvin at 608-266-2388.

## Black River State Forest Focuses on ATV Safety

*Forest recreation is an important part of local economies around Wisconsin. The Black River State Forest put extra effort into patrolling their ATV trails during the recent opening weekend and will continue to focus on safety issues throughout the season.*

One of the biggest draws to the Black River State Forest is the well-known ATV trail system. This state forest, in conjunction with the adjoining Jackson County Forest, offers users approximately 100 miles of forest covered ATV trails. Maintaining a safe trail system is paramount in the management of the property and trail users play a key role. Law enforcement officials were patrolling the ATV trails during opening weekend (May 13-14) on the Black River State Forest and will continue to be active throughout the summer.

While ATV users have a significant economic impact to the local community, Traci Bailey, general manager of the Arrowhead Lodge in Black River Falls, also is concerned about safety issues. "We stress safety to all of our customers who use the ATV trail system. We first explain to them the importance of keeping the trails open and they can help us by keeping on the trails at all times, respecting others that are on the trails, and picking up after themselves."

Information about the Black River State Forest can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/StateForests/trails.htm> or by calling 715-284-4103.

## 2006 Tree City USA Banquet scheduled

*Encourage your local community to become a Tree City USA and to save March 9, 2006 on their calendar for a recognition banquet and workshop.*

The 2006 Tree City USA Recognition Banquet and Workshop has been scheduled for March 9, 2006 at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. If you are a Tree City USA, your mayor, community forester and a guest will be invited to attend this event that only happens once every three years. Encourage your mayor not to miss this opportunity to be recognized as a leader in Wisconsin community forestry by submitting a [Tree City USA application](#) by December 31, 2005. For more information on how to become a Tree City USA, contact your regional urban forestry coordinator. Find their contact information at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/UF/staff/index.htm>

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